

Houston Commission on Disabilities

November 14th, 2024, 4:00 – 5:00 PM

The Houston Commission on Disabilities meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month at Houston TranStar (6922 Katy Road). The meeting is streamed on the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities Facebook page.

Chair Silcox asked Stephanie Haechten to proceed with the roll call.

Roll Call of the Commissioners:

Position 1: Michael Cottingham	Present
Position 2: Caitlin Conner	Present
Position 3: Ann M. Bacon	Absent
Position 4: Katie Crouch	Absent
Position 5: Sashikala Nisankarao	Absent
Position 6: Monique Mason	Absent
Position 7: Adam Farris	Present
Position 8: Amie Jean	Present
Position 9: Mary Sias	Absent
Position 10: Meridith Silcox – Chair	Present
Position 11: Lydia Nunez Landry	Present
Position 12: Melisa Rosario-Diaz	Present
Position 13: Osvaldo Capmany	Present
Position 14: Adele Henry	Present
Ex-Officio: Angel Ponce	Present
Ex-Officio: Marshall Watson	Present
Legal: Rebekah Wendt	Absent

Chair Silcox called the meeting to order at **4:07 PM** with a quorum present and welcomed attendees to the meeting.

MOPD Staff: Angel Ponce, Stephanie Haechten, John Serrano, Rey Herrera, Amanda Boyd

Metropolitan Multiservice Center Staff: Nolan Griffin

Announcements

- Ricky Harris has been invited to HCOD to support Emergency Preparedness committee

Review and Approval of April Meeting Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Farris

Second: Commissioner Nunez Landry

Public Comments

- Eileen Edmonds (Assistant Director of Education at TUTS)
 - o Leads programming at the Metropolitan Multi Service Center
 - o Shared concerns about unhoused individuals making MMSC unsafe for community center participants and TUTS' students. Requested for increased security.
- Scott Daigle (Public Policy Director for the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities)
 - o TCDD Public Policy Priorities: <https://tcdd.texas.gov/policy/public-policy-priorities/>
 - o <https://tcdd.texas.gov/stay-connected/>

MOPD Report to the HCOD

Angel Ponce (Director, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities)

- MOPD Operations
 - o Constituent assistance-54
 - o Community outreach-16
 - o Presentations-7
 - o Total: 490
- PAR program
 - o 6 approved, 10 denied, 3 in construction
- Information and Referral Services
 - o Served over 770 constituents through case management and outreach for the calendar year
- 2024 Disability Celebration
 - o Had 25 vendors who support disability community, and it was a great turnout
- Champion of Inclusion Award

- Given to Ted Irving with HTV
- Director Angel Ponce has been appointed to the Disability Rights Texas Board of Directors and to the Houston METRO Board of Directors
- ADA Self-Evaluation
 - A city-wide employee survey went out
- Events
 - White Cane Safety Day at University of Houston, Oct. 15th
 - White Cane Safety Day at MMSC, Oct. 12th
 - Inclusive Job Fair Oct. 24th

MMSC Report to the HCOD

Nolan Griffen (Recreation Specialist, MMSC)

- Hosted Metal & Muscle in October
 - had over 450 athletes-largest Metal & Muscle they've had
- Hannah Walker and Nolan Griffen presented yesterday at Harris Health
- Tabata & dance class will resume in December.
- Weight loss competition at MMSC in January

ADA Update

Marshall Watson (Administrative Coordinator – ADA, City of Houston, Human Resources Department, Civil Service & EEO Division)

- 3rd quarter calls and emails & COH employee reasonable accommodations:13
- Reasonable accommodations:79 from City employees

Committee Updates:

- New Commissioners must have signed and notarized paperwork sent to Boards and Commissions (due tomorrow)

Chair Silcox motions to adjourn meeting.

Commissioner Henry seconds.

Meeting closes at **4:35 PM**.

Meeting Minutes recorded by Amanda Boyd; Amanda.Boyd@houstontx.gov. Please email any corrections.